



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV  
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 1000  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011

JUN 21 1989

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In Reply Refer To:  
Docket: 40-07580/CAL 89-18  
License: SMB-911

Fansteel Metals, Inc.  
ATTN: T. S. Carlile, Jr.  
General Manager  
Number Ten Tantalum Place  
Muskogee, Oklahoma 74401

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF ACTION LETTER

This is to confirm the conversation between Mr. T. S. Carlile of Fansteel Metals, Inc., and Dr. D. B. Spitzberg and other members of the NRC staff on June 20, 1989. Based on that conversation, it is my understanding that Fansteel Metals, Inc., will take the following actions at the Muskogee, Oklahoma, facility to mitigate the ongoing leakage of your Number 3 retention pond:

1. Immediately cease discharges of process streams to Pond 3. This commitment will stay in effect until Pond 3 is repaired or replaced.
2. Complete by Friday, June 23, 1989, an excavated diversion to prevent area runoff from entering the temporary impoundment west of Pond 3.
3. Continue discharging liquids from the Pond 3 french drain to the lime neutralization pond at the maximum rate which can be treated by your neutralization system until such time that Item 7 below, is approved by the NRC.
4. Perform a visual inspection at least once per hour on the temporary impoundment dam for adequate freeboard and to detect increased seepage or other conditions which could threaten the integrity of this structure. Immediately notify NRC Region IV, (817) 860-8100, of any deterioration in the integrity of the embankments surrounding Pond 3 or the temporary impoundment dams. NRC may be contacted outside of normal office hours, (7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday) by calling the NRC Headquarters Duty Officer at (202) 951-0550. These inspections will be performed until such time that Fansteel Metals, Inc., requests, and NRC approves, relief from this commitment.
5. Make a concerted inquiry of outside technical expertise to determine if other mitigating actions are appropriate.
6. Make no changes in the handling or treatment of process material and wastes containing licensed materials from those represented in your license without prior approval of the NRC's Fuel Cycle Licensing Branch.



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7. By Friday, June 23, 1989, submit to NRC Fuel Cycle Licensing Branch with a copy to this office, a plan for the removal and treatment of all liquids contained in Pond 3 and the temporary impoundments.

Issuance of this Confirmation of Action Letter does not preclude the issuance of an order formalizing the above commitments. If your understanding differs from that set forth above, please call Mr. C. L. Cain at (817) 860-8186 or Dr. D. B. Spitzberg at (817) 860-8191 immediately.

Sincerely,

  
Robert D. Martin  
Regional Administrator

cc:  
Oklahoma Radiation Control Program Director

Fansteel, Inc.  
ATTN: J. G. Duggan  
Vice President and  
General Counsel  
Number One Tantalum Place  
North Chicago, Illinois 60064